

# ACS Conducts Autumn Meetings for Training and Public Service

## Urban Search and Rescue and WTO Orientation

By Peter Smith N7BYP and Bill Dockstader W7LSK

### Urban Search and Rescue

Two ACS meetings were held recently. The first occurred on Saturday, October 16, at the Overlake Hospital in Bellevue. This was a joint meeting of the Seattle ACS and Medical Services Team. The main speaker was Deputy Chief Dominic V. Marzono of the Woodinville Fire Department. He presented an interesting and informative view of the Federal Urban Search and Rescue initiative.

When disaster strikes the teams you see on television packing to go to disaster areas in the United States and world wide are part this initiative. There are twenty seven teams in three regions in the United States. Each team has sixty two persons, and sixty thousand pounds of equipment. They maintain a six hour response time and operate for periods of up to ten days.

In the past, they have responded to incidents ranging from hurricanes to grain silo explosions. The teams provide search, rescue, and technical assistance at disaster locations. After the general meeting, the ACS members present met briefly to review the upcoming

WTO conference in Seattle and the probable involvement of ACS during this period.

*Want to know more about the Federal Urban Search and Rescue Initiative? Check the web address in the Resources training insert in this issue of QRV?*

### WTO Meeting - Orientation and Training

On Tuesday, October 20th, a meeting was held at the Seattle Emergency Operations Center to orient ACS members to

the upcoming World Trade Organization meeting and the responsibilities envisioned for ACS. In attendance were a several ACS members, representatives from King County ARES, and others representing the A.R.E.S. Medical Services Team.

Mark Sheppard, N7LYE, and Steve Marten outlined overall plans for ACS involvement. During the conference ACS members will help staff the Communications Center of the EOC 24 hours a day. In addition, ACS members will be at various stations throughout the city. Those who cannot volunteer for active service will be asked to volunteer for stand-by duty.

Planning is underway for hands-on training on the radio equipment at the EOC as well as instruction in the overall organization of relevant emergency management agencies.

*Want to find out more about the World Trade Organization and its upcoming meeting? If so, go to the WTO website at: <http://www.wto.org/>. To find additional information about the conference, follow the "Ministerial information page" link you will see on the WTO home page.*



Urban Search and Rescue Meeting

Photo by Bill Dockstader

## Q R V ?

Q R V ? = "Are you prepared?"

*Q R V ? is the Newsletter of the Seattle  
Auxiliary Communication Service*

City of Seattle  
Emergency Management

**ACS Net & Disaster Coordination**  
Weekly Net, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.  
146.96 MHz

**ACS Primary Message Channels**  
441.80 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)  
443.00 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)  
443.65 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)

**ACS 6 Meter Frequency**  
53.250 MHz (tone 100 Hz)

**ACS Website**  
[http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/  
seattle/engr/home.htm](http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/engr/home.htm)

**State & County Nets**  
Washington State Emergency  
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.  
Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.  
3.987 MHz

--  
King County ARES  
Sundays at 8:00 p.m.  
145.330 MHz

Please direct inquiries about the  
Auxiliary Communication Service to:  
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ACS Manager  
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2320 4th Avenue,  
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Please direct letters, articles, and  
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[n7byp@sttl.uswest.net](mailto:n7byp@sttl.uswest.net)

## From The Editor

## AWDIWDB

Sometime, take a moment and *really* listen to our conversations. You may be surprised how much we use abbreviations as a kind of verbal shorthand. Recently, a couple of new abbreviations have made their way into our lingo. WTO and Y2K. Imagine this conversation between ACS members: "Were you at the meeting down at the EOC when we discussed how ACS will help with WTO and Y2K?" Sound familiar? Lots of "verbal shorthand" in that exchange! Now add some more abbreviated ham lingo like FB, XYL, QSO, (yes, even *Q R V ?*) and our talk turns into that vegetable soup with the little letters.

Well, I'm going to get into the spirit of things by adding yet another abbreviation for us to keep in mind as we prepare for WTO, Y2K and all the other events in which we'll participate. This one is AWDIWDB. Haven't heard of it? I'm not surprised. I just made it up. My guess is that it won't catch on because it's hard to say. Hmmm...let's see, Aw-di-wid-ba? Okay, enough of this nonsense, I'll get to my point. AWDIWDB stands for a witty saying attributed to G.K. Chesterton, the noted English writer. It goes "Anything worth doing is worth doing badly." Now don't get me wrong. I don't mean to say that ACS will do "badly" in the coming months. By using the term "badly" I (and Chesterton) really mean to describe performance that's just a few degrees this side of *perfection*. The point of AWDIWDB is that if we wait for perfection, nothing ever gets done.

The upcoming World Trade Organization meeting and the Y2K event will present us with unique opportunities to use our skills and learn from our experiences. As we participate in these events, let's try to be aware of what we do well and what we do "badly." If we pay attention and learn from both good and not-so-good performances, we'll *grow* through our participation and perhaps even approach *perfection*! ■■■■■

## From the EOC

By Jim Mullen, Director  
Seattle Emergency Management

As 1999 winds down, the EOC is gearing up for both the World Trade Organization Conference in late November and early December, and of course for the Year 2000 festivities as the century turns over.

Beginning now, you may read a lot about the City's preparations for both events. If you are very fortunate, some of what you read will be somewhat accurate.

For this quarter's Q R V ?, I thought that I would briefly describe how the EOC is used in these circumstances. I believe I can do this without distorting the truth, and without raising fears, but then, I am not selling newspapers or television time.

We would be fairly irresponsible if an event like the upcoming WTO Conference or the City's Y2K celebration did not make us review our capabilities to handle a major incident. We have over the years exercised earthquake response, hazardous materials incidents, and chemical and biological incidents. Along the way we have responded to several severe winter storms, covered some big fires, and braced ourselves for major public events, like APEC. We do all this because it makes sense to treat both exercises and real events like they could be the incidents that we really hope we never have to handle. So, we practice because we know that when it's real, we will perform the way we practiced, and perhaps we will even perform better than in our drills.

Each event, be it WTO or Y2K, has different features that require special preparations. Unlike the most dreaded disaster, a major earthquake, both of the upcoming events have known properties: we know when they begin and when they will end. Nature doesn't provide us with advance warning of an earthquake. Each event challenges us to prepare and anticipate.

The ACS team is very well prepared to step up to its responsibilities in any

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## Personal Profile

### Bill Dockstader W7LSK

This time, the personal profile shines its light on another one of our Monday night net controllers, Bill Dockstader (W7LSK). Bill got his start in amateur radio when, as a lad of twelve back in the fifties, he attended a summer YMCA camp in Maine. One of the camp counselors was a ham and he introduced a number of his young campers to the wonder and mystery of radio. The ham-bug bit Bill hard at camp that summer. He took his novice test before he left camp for home and has been licensed ever since. That Christmas, his parents bought him a used HeathKit crystal controlled radio and soon Bill was active on the novice bands. He later upgraded to Technician class and continues his ham activities as a Tech plus.

It is interesting to note how many of us received our invitation to join ACS through the SDART program. This is also true for Bill. His condominium association was one of the first to receive a SDART orientation and as a result of attending that meeting, Bill went on to make the connection with Mark Sheppard (N7LYE) and our own Auxiliary Communication Service. It wasn't too long before, as an ACS member, Bill presented an emergency radio demonstration at one of the SDART orientation meetings.

Bill enjoys operating on VHF and UHF frequencies and especially favors 2 meters. His station equipment includes a Yaesu FT 847 VHF/UHF all-mode transceiver, an ICOM IC-756 six meter radio, and his newest acquisition, a wonderful old Collins KWM-2, a treasure he couldn't resist after finding it on the Internet. The Collins rig is in nice original condition and has recently been checked out electronically and brought back to

specs. Perhaps the reason the KWM-2 was irresistible to Bill is that the classic rig brought back memories of his time in the Army. He used Collins rigs while serving with the Signal Corps in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. At that time, he specialized in tropospheric scatter and helped set up radio communications systems that were used by the State Depart-

## Bill's station equipment includes ... a wonderful old Collins KWM-2

ment to communicate with cities all across South Vietnam. Bill traveled a lot and saw much of South Vietnam while developing the radio communications systems.

Getting back to Bill's shack, he uses two antennas (or is it antenni?). One is an indoor ten meter dipole, the other is a Yaesu ATS 100 mobile vertical. The lat-

ter antenna sounds fascinating to me. It changes its length depending on the band in use. Bill finds this antenna to be especially useful at home since he lives in a condominium that has outdoor antenna restrictions. So whenever Bill takes a notion to go on the air, the good old ATS 100 goes out on the lanai and he's in business. Most recently, Bill has added packet capability at his shack. He's been working with Dave Prince (WB0RAZ) and Steve Monsey (N0FPF) in the development of the TCP/IP packet system for ACS. A life member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), Bill enjoys reading *QST* and other ARRL publications. In addition he keeps up with other ham news by being a regular reader of *CQ*.

As far as non-radio activity is concerned, Bill enjoys camping at his Gold Bar campsite. It's a great place to get away and relax. Actually, it is not accurate to say camping is unrelated to radio because Bill enjoys operating his radios from this campsite. Photography has been an interest for many years. Lately it has taken a technological turn with the acquisition of a new digital camera.

When not engaged in ACS activity, Bill spends his time working for the University of Washington Physicians as their Manager of Technical Support. In this role, he has responsibility for their computer networking. He also is a systems programmer for their I.B.M. mainframe computer.

Over the time that Bill has been a member of ACS he has stepped up to take on increasing responsibility and currently plays a major leadership role in the organization. He has spent considerable time and energy working to improve the overall preparedness of ACS and our organization has benefited much from his efforts. Thanks, Bill, for your excellent work on our behalf. ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



Bill Dockstader W7LSK

Photo by Pete Smith

# Mark's Message

By Mark Sheppard, N7LYE

Are we ready? - 'Tis the question of the season - The World Trade Organization (WTO), the Y2K roll-over and not to be underestimated - a forecast for another bad NW winter storm season. The City needs the ACS team to be ready.

We need to update our roster of radio operators available for the weeks of November 28 - December 3, 1999 (WTO) and December 31, 1999 - January 7, 2000 (Y2K Roll-over).

Please e-mail Bill Dockstader: wdockstader@uwp.washington.ed, or phone him at home 6 - 9:00 PM weekdays or weekends at 206 364 3200 with the following information: (you may also pass it along to net control during the ACS nets, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.)

\*Specific dates you will be available to respond to your assigned post should we be activated during the WTO and/or Y2K time frames described above.

\* Your assigned post (Community Center or other location) you plan to staff.

Please indicate if unknown

\* Phone numbers (home, work, other)

\* Pager number if available

\* Current e-mail address

Remember to monitor 146.96 MHz (PSRG repeater) and 443.65 MHz. (ACS UHF Repeater) during periods of readiness or during an actual event for information concerning ACS team activation.

ACS News - Jim Mullen, Director Seattle OEM has appointed Bill Dockstader, W7LSK and Pete Smith, N7BYP to the post of Deputy ACS Manager/RACES Officer. Both men have distinguished themselves as dedicated leaders within the ACS organization, taking on significant projects which have contributed to the growth and strength of our team. These appointments are consistent with our vision of sustaining ACS as a broad based and durable organization with adepth of leadership. I am grateful for their willingness to join me in the management and guidance of ACS. Please join me in congratulating them in their appointments.

Thanks to all for being part of the team and staying prepared, 73's Mark

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disaster. You have trained and critiqued with diligence and competence. If necessary, you will be called and we will have the utmost confidence in your contributions. Obviously, the EOC will have a role in monitoring the development of both WTO and Y2K events, and we have a standing policy to call in some ACS resources whenever we are activated, even for very limited purposes.

The City has continued to emphasize preparedness for any and all hazards. The ACS capability is a critical part of that response. In that sense, the upcoming gatherings in Seattle in November and December will be opportunities to demonstrate what all the training and critiquing is providing: a well equipped and knowledgeable disaster response and readiness team for the City of Seattle.

Thanks once more for your efforts. Happy holidays. ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

QRV? - Seattle ACS  
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